

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph beginning at page 7, line 12, which starts with "Further and as illustrated with reference again to FIGS. 1 and 2" with the following amended paragraph:

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Further, and as illustrated with reference again to FIGS. 1 and 2, and to FIG. 3, the operator 12 need wear only a single headset 30 to handle all operator communication needs, as will herein be described in further detail. The single headset 30 allows the operator to independently control the audio streams from various manually selected audio sources, to his left and right ears via left ear speaker 32 and right ear speaker 34 of the single headset 30. The system 10 includes a hardware interface 36 including electronic card modules 38 which accommodate electronic interfacing with the different ship communication systems 14 that may be present on a particular ship class, as illustrated by way of example, with reference to FIG. 4. The user interface 40 remains consistent across all ship platforms, and in one preferred embodiment, includes the single headset ~~[[12]]~~ 30, personal computer (PC) 42 which uses a computer mouse 44 or typical alternate input devices such as a touch screen, a keyboard 46, and a monitor 48. The keyboard 46 will be typically be used by the operator 12 for tactical training data entry, and like the balance of the PC related hardware, is very familiar equipment for the operator. As a result, the system 10, not only acts as a communications integrator, but also has the ability to route audio from one tactical communications systems equipment 14 to either a wide area network (WAN) 50, or to another tactical system onboard ship. As illustrated with reference again to FIG. 4, the hardware interface 36 permits insertion of multiple operator modules, such as a digital signal processor (DSP) module 51 and switch control functions (SCF) 52. Common modules, such as the DSP module 51 and the SCF module 52 are scalable to operate with tactical interfaces for one or more operators 12. The hardware interface 36 scales by simply adding additional interface card modules 38 for each additional operator. The software will automatically scale to operate with the number of interface card modules seen on the computer bus. The system 10 accommodates modular upgrades by allowing a CPU module 54 and network interface

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cards to be upgraded without affecting the design or operation of the rest of the system. All audio information is digitized when it is routed to the DSP. Such a capability permits the system 10 to optionally save and time stamp the audio data for record and playback purposes, a valuable tool in training when reviewing performance for a scenario. Once the data is stored, training exercises that are visually reviewed can be enhanced by audio playback that is GPS time-stamped and synchronized to the events that took place during the exercise.

Please replace paragraph beginning at page 9, line 17, which starts with "A custom signal processor module 62" with the following amended paragraph:

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A custom signal processor module 62 provides the custom hardware interface 36 to the operational tactical equipment 14 onboard the ship through connection ports 64, as herein described by way of example. A sound power interface 66 processes the analog signals to and from the sound power telephones (SP) 20, earlier described with reference to FIGS. 1 and 2. A telephone interface 68 processes the analog signals to and from a standard telephone PBX interface, the telephone 22. A tactical digital Interface 70 processes the digital messages to and from the operational equipment 14 onboard ship. A tactical analog interface 72 processes the analog audio data to and from the operational equipment 14 onboard the ship. An audio pre-conditioner module 74 adjusts the audio levels from the operational equipment 14 to levels acceptable by the digital signal processor module [[50]] 51. A digital control unit 76 provides timing information for controlling the custom signal processor 62.

Please replace paragraph beginning at page 11, line 10, which starts with "Ship communications equipment was" with the following amended paragraph:

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Ship communications equipment was described above and is further expanded to provide a brief explanation for the names selected for the GUI buttons **88**, illustrated with reference again to FIG. 6. Communications established between two points on a ship is called interphone (IP) communication, thus an IP button **92**. Communications established between three or more points on a ship is called conference (CONF) communications, thus a CONF button **93**. Communications established on one of the ship's multiple voice networks is referred to as network (NET) communications, thus a NET button **95**. Communications established on the ship's tactical radios that broadcast over the airways is called tactical radio (TR) communication, thus a TR button **97**. Communication established over the sound powered circuits on a ship is called sound power (SP) communications, thus SP button **99**. Communications established over the telephone circuits on a ship used to connect a ship in port to a commercial phone system is called telephone (PH) communications, thus a PH button **101**. Button names may change without departing from the intent and teachings of the present invention. In addition, the GUI **80** is herein described as one preferred embodiment, but a hardwired structure including real buttons may be preferred depending on an environment in which the system **10** is to be used.